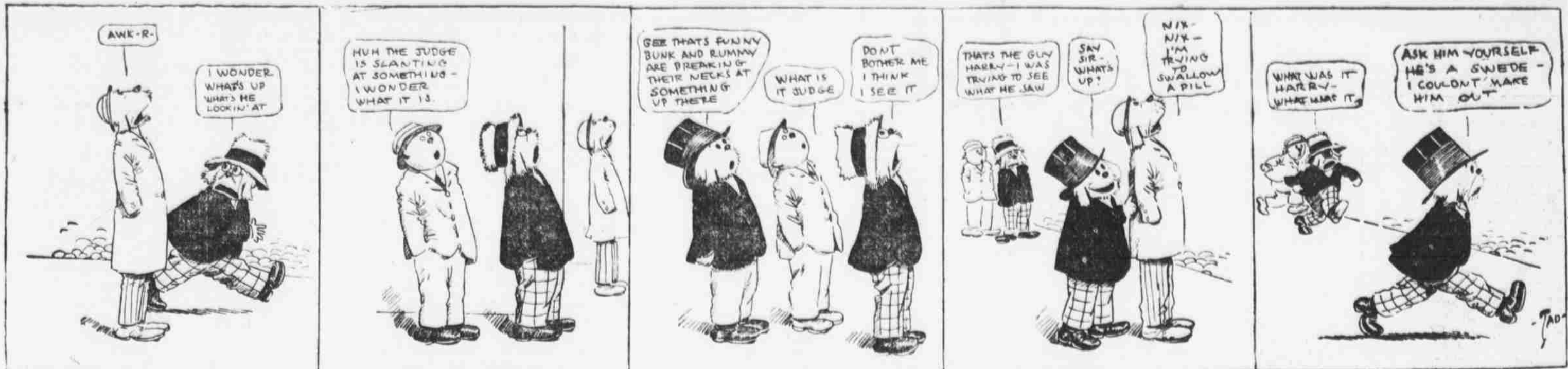


SILK HAT HARRY'S DIVORCE SUIT-- He Was Just Looking, That's All

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ALDRICH ANSWERS HOWELL

Former Governor Makes Statement in Regard to Power Rights.

QUESTIONS HOWELL'S VERACITY

Political Engineer is Accused of Misstating the Facts--All Parties Have Had Ample Hearing.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, Jan. 29.—(Special Telegram.)

C. H. Aldrich, former governor and member of the Board of Irrigation, made an argument tonight before the special conservation committee of the house against the proposal that the state develop its water power and engage in furnishing power for commercial enterprise. At the outset Mr. Aldrich paid his respects to H. B. Howell of Omaha, who was quoted as having cast aspersions upon the members of the irrigation board who granted certain water rights to private companies. At the conclusion of the address, the committee on the appearance of a farce, Trumble and McAllister asking numerous questions to each of which the governor had a warm reply. For instance Chairman McAllister read several minutes from the report of the conservation commission of Canada.

Cross-Fire is Warm.

"Isn't that right, governor?"

"If you read it right it is," replied the former executive.

Trumble asked several hypothetical questions to which the governor replied that probably the board which investigated applications for water did not understand the questions passed on as well as some who knew nothing about it.

While the visitors laughed at the repartee between the governor and members of the committee, Reich moved to adjourn and the meeting ended. Mr. Aldrich told the committee that he was present on his own initiative; that he represented no client, no special interest, but was merely talking as a private citizen, concerned in the welfare of his state. At the Babcock hearing, for example, attorneys and others had been present, and written as well as oral arguments had been presented to the board. The former governor went on:

"In view of all this I was indeed surprised to note a statement in the daily press by a certain political engineer of Omaha to the effect that the rights of the public had not been adequately presented, seemingly due to the fact that the public had been deprived of his services through the fault of the board in failing to see that said services were of sufficient importance, that the board should have adjourned its hearings, when witnesses from many parts of the state were present, until this august person-

age might choose to be present and submit oral argument.

Describes Mr. Howell.

"And yet I am not surprised when I note that the source of the charge of unfair treatment comes from a self-styled, unscrupulous politician, whose record as state engineer of Nebraska discloses the fact that for the last three months of his time as state engineer, he was drawing pay from the state and from the city of Omaha as city engineer.

"The records in the state engineer's office disclose that Mr. Howell, the political engineer referred to, had the opportunity to present his views to the board before any decision was rendered in any case. The record discloses that he did not care to submit a brief and formal written argument, where he would have the opportunity to consistently and logically state his views without surmise and have the same preserved as a part of the record.

"The rules of the board provide for written arguments and briefs to be filed in each case and when Mr. Howell was requested to submit his argument, in brief, he was accorded the same treatment as the other counsel and interested parties in the case. He was at one time accorded the courtesy of an adjournment until he could appear before the board and make his argument, which was done over the strenuous protest of all the attorneys in the case, who had not been granted that privilege.

Challenges Howell's Veracity.

"On the facts and records in the case, when Mr. Howell says he has not been afforded an opportunity to present his views, he speaks that which is untrue and contrary to the record and facts.

"Of all the men who have appeared before the board from time to time in these important matters, Mr. Howell stands out alone as the only man with a grievance for not having been heard.

"The facts are, as I have said, that many prominent members of the Municipal Ownership league of Lincoln, as well as attorneys, were present at some of these hearings and Mr. Howell himself is on record as having declined to make a written argument. It would seem that this political engineer counts more upon his personal magnetism than any facts or logic that he might be able to adduce. He does not complain that he was deprived of an opportunity to present the facts and argument, if he had any. But rather he complains that he was deprived of the opportunity to submit his personality. In other words the gentleman counts more upon his form than he does upon his powers of argument.

What the Law Provides.

"I am here to say as a matter of law that these water power rights already granted under and by virtue of the laws of this state are accepted, subject to the control, regulation, and any future legislation that may be enacted by the people of Nebraska.

"I also state at this time, as a matter of law, that whenever it becomes a public necessity or is proper for the general good, that the public can condemn any service corporation and take it over.

"Instead of frightening and discouraging investment for the purpose of developing the water power of our state, every facility consistent with the protection of the public school should be granted to build these canals.

Howell and the Railroads.

"In the city of Omaha and Lincoln, alone, there is used in horse power today, produced by steam boilers, approximately 50,000 horsepower. This consumes about 1,000,000 tons of coal per year. At a cost of \$1.30 per ton at the mines means that \$1,300,000 is paid out for coal. Then add to this the freight at \$1.70 per ton and you have \$2,600,000 for this item. Thus to the railroads and the coal mines, Omaha and Lincoln annually pay over \$4,000,000.

"Is it not plain whose interests our engineer friend is advocating? Whether Mr. Howell is in the employ of the railroads or not, the argument he makes sells them and places dollars and cents in their pockets.

"Let private enterprises develop this water power and furnish the power that the railroads in the transportation of coal and the coal mines furnish, and you will save to the cities of Lincoln and Omaha the vast sum of \$4,000,000 per year in addition to a conservation of coal.

Why State Should Keep Out.

"Let me state as to why I think the state should not go into this project, but should allow it to be developed by private enterprise, subject to regulations.

"First--The entire proposition is purely experimental and speculative, due not only to a limited market, but to physical difficulties incident to a successful control of the waters of the Loup and Platte, which are so patent that all engineers regard the building of an auxiliary steam plant indispensable.

"Second--The state has no right to embark upon an experimental and speculative undertaking, which will impose a heavy financial burden upon the people thereof.

"Third--The known large expense that would be necessary in the preliminary stages of water power development in

